



# USAID | MACEDONIA

## PRESS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **USAID helps improve schools, strengthen local governance, and empower communities**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Secondary Education Activity, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science, is organizing a nation-wide School Board training. Between July 2 and August 22, 2008 approximately 1,300 members of primary and secondary School Boards will meet and attend trainings to strengthen school governance and improve education through building school-community relationships.

"By involving more parents and community members in school governance, School Boards contribute to the public discourse on education. The voice of the School Board members is a genuine voice, the voice of those who are concerned about and responsible for the quality of education of their children, neighbors, and fellow-citizens," said USAID Mission Director Patricia Rader at the Opening Ceremony.

As a body responsible for school governance, the School Boards provide a vital forum for parents and other members of the school community to contribute to school improvement, school management and student learning outcomes, and to supervise the work of the School Director, who is responsible for school management. Through a series of nation-wide trainings, School Board members will learn about their new roles and responsibilities in a decentralized educational system and be empowered to make positive contributions in support of students throughout Macedonia.

USAID Secondary Education Activity (SEA) prepares youth for employment in 71 secondary vocational education schools throughout Macedonia. In order to sustain results beyond project completion, SEA works closely with governmental and other stakeholders in project implementation. Specifically, SEA works closely with students and student organizations (MASSUM), teachers, school administrators, school boards, and officials from the local and central Ministry of Education and Science (MOES). For more information please visit the following web site [www.sea.org.mk](http://www.sea.org.mk)

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth over \$20 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>